

CGS NEWS

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2024 Families First School of the Year for the Northern Region



Celebrating Academic Success at Key Stage 3

In recent Assemblies, we celebrated the achievements of our pupils in Years 8-10.

Well done to those Year 8 pupils, with 40 pupils receiving Academic Achievement, Academic Endeavour or Academic Improvement certificates based on performance and progress in summer examinations.

Congratulations to the phenomenal 82 Bronze, Silver and Gold Certificate Winners at the recent **Year 9 Positive Note** Assembly!!

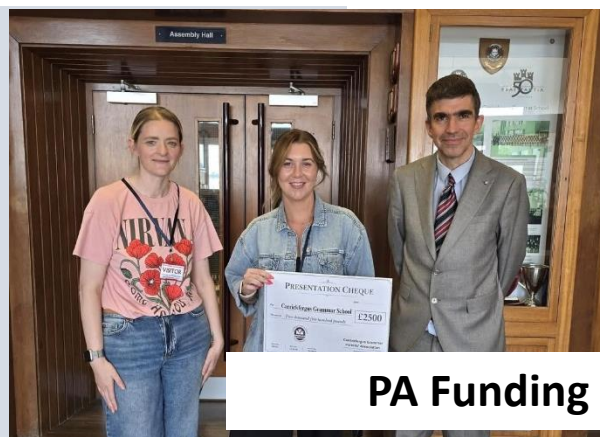
In **Year 10**, 42 pupils received Academic Achievement, Academic Endeavour or Academic Improvement certificates based on performance and progress in summer examinations.

Congratulations to them all!

#proud

A fantastic way to round off the school year! PA Chair Rachel Andrews-Moore and Treasurer Victoria Simms were delighted to present a cheque for £2,500 to Principal James Maxwell, representing funds raised through the Parents' Association events held throughout the year.

We are pleased to share that the funds will be used to purchase 3D printers for the Technology Department, with the remaining contribution helping to support the refurbishment of a new Music Technology Room, including updated computer equipment for pupils. *A heartfelt thank you to every parent, pupil, staff member, volunteer and local business that supported our events throughout the year. Whether you donated prizes, sponsored activities, attended events, gave your time, or simply showed your support, every contribution helped make this possible.*



PA Funding



Sports day 2026





Paris Trip 2026



P6 STEAM WEEK at CGS

Celebrating the Power of STEAM at CGS!

This week CGS was delighted to open its doors to over 470 enthusiastic P6 pupils from 14 local primary schools as part of our annual STEAM Week. The event offered a vibrant and immersive introduction to life at CGS, giving our young visitors the opportunity to explore a wide range of STEAM subjects through interactive workshops, hands-on experiments, and dynamic sporting activities.

From ICT challenges to creative design tasks, and from science labs to team sports, the week was packed with energy, curiosity, and collaboration. It was a joy to see the next generation of learners fully engaged and inspired by the exciting possibilities within STEAM.

A huge thank you to all the students, staff, and visiting schools who helped make the event such a success. It truly was a fantastic celebration of innovation, creativity, and the #PowerOfSTEAM



We recently welcomed the incomparable soprano Sarah Richmond to the Music Department, who delivered an inspiring workshop with much careers guidance, to some of Mrs Shepherd's vocal students. Both ladies are alumni of Carrickfergus Grammar, once sitting where these young singers sit today as CGS music students and both have made incredible careers for themselves as singers - performing and teaching. Five singers performed and were put through their paces, each having the opportunity to learn much from Sarah. Ultimately it comes down to many, many hours of private preparation if you hope to make it as a performer in any field and nowhere is it more difficult than in the saturated world of singing.

If you have never heard either of these ladies perform, I encourage you to seek out their performances both live and recorded. Recently the Royal Ballet And Opera announced their upcoming season and in the autumn Sarah will perform in Parsifal at Covent Garden - another iconic achievement after years of hard work. <https://www.rbo.org.uk/production/parsifal-evgeny-titov>



Soprano visit to CGS



U13 Girls Cricket Success

A huge congratulations to our U13 Girls Cricket team who competed in the NCU cricket Tournament at Friends' School recently. The girls were outstanding throughout the day, winning 5 of their 6 matches and finishing an incredible 5th place out of 20 teams!



What a fantastic evening at our Annual Old Girls Hockey Tournament! 🏑 We welcomed back over 50 former pupils to take part in one of our favourite events of the year. With teams representing Pre-2015, Post-2015, and our current 1st XI, it was an evening full of competitive hockey, laughter, and plenty of reminiscing about the good old days. It was so special to see past and present players sharing the pitch, catching up with old teammates, and celebrating the lifelong friendships that hockey has created.

A huge thank you to 4 Star Pizza Carrickfergus for keeping everyone well fed with their amazing pizzas! We would also like to thank all the families, former teachers, past pupils, supporters, and our Principal, Mr Maxwell, for coming along and making the evening such a success.

Congratulations to our Pre-2015 team, who were undefeated throughout the tournament and deservedly crowned this year's champions! 🏆 *Thank you to everyone who took part and supported the event. The incredible turnout and atmosphere reminded us just how strong our hockey family is at CGS. We already can't wait to do it all again next year!*



Geographers out and about



Our GCSE Geography residential at Magilligan Field Centre was a great success. After the recent rain, the Curly Burn river was topped-up for our Year 11 to measure, and the sun came out to allow us to enjoy the great outdoors. After a morning classroom session processing collected data, the group were guided on a tour of coastal erosion features at Whiterocks Beach. Caves, arches, viewpoints, blue skies and ice creams to finish off another remarkable trip! *Thanks, as always, to school staff and the staff at Magilligan Field Centre who helped make this trip such a success.*



CGS ALUMNI ROLE MODELS



ABBY GREEN

CGS 2016 - 2023



WHERE IS SHE NOW?

Currently working as part of my placement for my Biomedical Engineering degree as an R&D Engineer in Medtronic Vascular Galway

TIME AT CGS:

FAVOURITE SUBJECT

I really enjoyed studying Biology all through school.

MEMORIES

I definitely enjoyed playing hockey in school. It is such a great way to bond with people across different year groups. There are so many exciting opportunities with sports in school as a great way to decompress from studies.

CAREER PATHWAY:

SIXTH FORM CHOICES

I studied Biology, Chemistry and Physics at A-Levels which has led me to study a Bachelors in Biomedical Engineering in Ulster University Belfast

DAY IN THE LIFE OF A STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

I work with the Released Product Engineering team in Research and Development of medical devices that deploy valves into the heart for people with heart defects as part of Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement. I deal a lot with monitoring the performance of devices post-release into the market as well as dealing with any issues or complaints from manufacturing or clinical use. It is a very hands on practical role with a lot of testing in our labs and investigating ways to further enhance the devices to make them more efficient to save patient lives.

PROUDEST CAREER ACHIEVEMENT

Im early in my career and still exploring what my degree can lead me to but I have enjoyed working as an R&D engineer in Medtronic. I have had the opportunity to help with the development of AI software in CAD to aid innovation in the engineering world and it has been so rewarding to see it coming together.

WORDS OF WISDOM

Don't be afraid to make mistakes as this is the time to explore your interests. You should be trying new things and testing yourself.



CARRICKFERGUS
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PRESENTS



The SOUND *of* MUSIC

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BE PART OF SOMETHING TRULY SPECIAL.



COMING
NOVEMBER | **2026**

Find your part. Raise your voice.
THIS IS YOUR MOMENT!

Historians visit Stormont

Our Year 11 Historians enjoyed a fantastic visit to **Parliament Buildings, Stormont**. They were given an informative tour of the Senate and Assembly Chambers, learnt about the history of the Northern Ireland Parliament and evolution of power-sharing, and the historical significance of the statues and paintings throughout the Stormont Estate.

The group enjoyed a picnic in the glorious sunshine before having the opportunity to meet John Stewart MLA for an engaging Q&A session. John did an excellent job fielding questions from our students and sharing insights into his journey from Carrickfergus Grammar School to a career in local politics. Many thanks to the staff and politicians for giving so generously of their time.

A memorable and inspiring day for all involved!

Year 9 Explore Future Study Pathways

Our Year 9 students recently visited Queen's University Belfast, for a horizon-broadening experience designed to get them thinking about their future education.

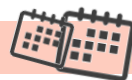


The day provided an insightful look at higher education and diverse study pathways: **Queen's Film Theatre (QFT):** Experiencing the creative and cultural hubs on campus.

Queen's Business School: Attending an inspiring presentation on future leadership and innovation.

Computer Science Building: Touring state-of-the-art facilities and trying out cutting-edge virtual reality technology.

Thank you to the staff at Queen's University Belfast for hosting us. Our pupils returned with a much broader perspective on the exciting opportunities ahead of them.



Dates for your diary

**Wishing the CGS community
a peaceful Summer break!**